



PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. SMT-003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Manfred Rietzler GROUP NO.: Not yet assigned  
SERIAL NO.: 10/593,046 EXAMINER: Not yet assigned  
FILING DATE: September 15, 2006  
TITLE: SEAL DEVICE

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby make of record the patents and publications listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449, and other information contained herein, for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. In accordance with the U.S. Patent Office's partial waiver of the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(i), only copies of the foreign patent documents and non-patent publications are enclosed.

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R., this statement is being filed (check one)

- (1) within three (3) months of the **filing date** of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d), or within three (3) months of the **date of entry of the national stage** as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing of the **first Office action** on the merits, or before the mailing of a **first Office action** after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. 1.114; or
- (2) after the period defined in (1) but before the mailing date of a **final action** or a **notice of allowance** under 37 C.F.R. 1.311, and
- the requisite Statement is below, OR

Information Disclosure Statement,

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- the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), namely **\$180.00**, is included herein, or
- (3) after the mailing date of a final action or notice of allowance but before the payment of the issue fee, **AND**
- the requisite Statement is below, **AND**
- the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), namely **\$180.00**, is included herein.

It is respectfully requested that each of the patents and publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, and other information contained herein, be made of record in this application.

**STATEMENT**

As required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), Applicant(s), through the undersigned, hereby state either that [check the appropriate space only if either (2) or (3) is checked on the previous page and the Statement is required]:

- 1. Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application **not more than three months** prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement; or
- 2. No item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this Statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to **any individual** designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) **more than three months** prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd A. Gerety  
Attorney for the Applicant(s)  
Proskauer Rose LLP  
One International Place  
Boston, MA 02110

Date: November 7, 2006  
Reg. No.: 51,729

Tel. No.: (617) 526-9655  
Fax No. (617) 526-9899



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FORM PTO - 1449  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT				ATTY DOCKET NO.: SMT-003  APPLICANT: Manfred Rietzler SERIAL NO.: 10/593,046 FILING DATE: September 15, 2006 GROUP: Not yet assigned					
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
EXAM INIT.		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	A1	6,002,343	12/14/1999	Auerbach et al.		340	825.54		
	A2	5,097,253	03/17/1992	Eschbach et al.		340	545		
	A3	3,712,655	01/23/1973	Fuehrer		292	321		
	A4	US 2003/0052782 A1	03/20/2003	Maloney		340	568.4		
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
EXAM INIT.		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY CODE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE	ABSTRACT ONLY	ENGLISH LANG (Y/N)
	B1	EP 0 978 812 A2	02/09/2000	EP				N	Y
	B2	EP 1 171 330 B1	06/23/2004	EP				N	Y
	B3	DE 692 09 851 T2		EP				N	N
	B4	DE 298 13 738 U1		DE				N	N
	B5	DE 295 21 243 U1		DE				N	N
	B6	GB 2 368 174 A		GB				N	Y
<b>OTHER ART, JOURNAL ARTICLES, ETC.</b>									
EXAM INIT.		OTHER DOCUMENTS: (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)							
	C1	International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/DE2005/002282, date of mailing 04/20/2006.							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED				